

## SOME REPLICABLE ACTIVITIES OF KERALA SASTHRA SAHITYA PARISHAD (KSSP)

KSSP was initiated by a small group of scientists who took up the task of popularising science through books and periodicals in simple Malayalam in 1964. Today KSSP has a membership of about 50,000 and around 1000 units spread all over Kerala.

**THE SCIENCE CAMPAIGNS** conducted by KSSP attract more and more new members and activists to the organization. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in popularising science. With the co-operation of teachers organizations, village libraries, socio political groups, KSSP conducts every year classes on chosen topics not only among its own members but also general public. KSSP recruits teachers for taking these classes both from its own activists and from outside and give training to them. These resource persons in turn train regional and local level activists and organize classes in their respective regions. Those who join this campaign from outside for taking classes will become strong activists of KSSP later. 'Nature, Science and Society' classes of 1975, 'Resources of Kerala' classes of 1976, 'Cheated Consumer' classes of 1982, 'The World We Live In' 1985 'Astronomy' classes' 1986 were some of the most successful campaigns of this sort. Each time the total number of classes varied from 10 to 15 thousand. Campaign against Militarisation of Science, Multi-national manipulation in the field of health, corruption in the field of education, irrational development policies etc. were also noteworthy.

**PROPAGATION OF SCIENCE BOOK AND PERIODICALS** is considered as the most important organisational task.

KSSP publishes following periodicals :

- 1) EUREKA  
Children's science monthly ; Circulation : 60,000
- 2) SASHTRA KERALAM  
Science monthly for high school children ; Circulation : 40,000
- 3) SASTHRAGATHI  
Science monthly for grownups ; Circulation : 15,000
- 4) PARISHAD VAARTHA  
Monthly bulletin for the members of KSSP

Books for children of different age groups and grown-ups are also published. Print run of books varies from 2,000 to 15,000. About 600 titles were brought out till now. The main distribution channel for the books is the organization itself. The commission and profit on books are the main source of income of the organization from Units to Centre.

Parishad activists collectively visit door to door to sell books ; in connection with some other programmes like a Sasthra Mela or a Science Cultural Programme. Whenever a parishad Committee needs money for conducting a programme they collect it through sale of books instead of collecting donations.

For mass selling of big books and book sets KSSP offers a **PRE PUBLICATION CONCESSION** and uses its activists to collect orders for the books in large scale before its publication. Through the annual **SASHTHRA KALA JATHA** also KSSP sells science books enormously. The Sasthra Kala Team will visit hundreds of centres to present cultural people. The local reception committee formed for arranging the Jatha Programme would be required to sell science books worth Rs. 1,000 to 5000 each to receive the Jatha. In this way science books worth Rs. 10-15 lakhs are sold during the Jatha period alone every year.



KSSP has recently started **BALOTSAVA JATHAS FOR CHILDREN** which visit hundred of schools in the State presenting cultural programmes on science subjects included in the syllabi. Action songs, capsule plays, puppet shows etc. are the items presented by these Jathas. As a pre-jatha programme, science books are sold in great numbers in schools by the school reception committee formed for arranging this children's programme.

KSSP has initiated the formation of **BALAVEDIES** outside schools to provide an exclusive forum for children. Children in these Balavedis are encouraged to formulate and implement various programmes of their own.

Under the auspices of these Balavedis a number of **BALAMELAS** and **LIVE WITH SCIENCE CAMPS** are also organized. In these camps the participant children from outside the town stay during the night as guests of the local participant children. Since stay and food are provided by the hosts the expenses in organising such camps are very much reduced. The aim of this camp is to make learning sweet. All the children are taught various subjects like mathematics, physics, chemistry, songs, puppetry, sculpture etc. in different corners of the camp in a most attractive manner by very efficient teachers. During the first phase of the camp all the children attend all the corners and in the second phase children are allowed to go to any corner and learn whatever subject they like. In these camps children are seen very actively participating from 8 am to 7 pm with pleasure.

Camps to discuss problems affecting women were also organized successfully in some parts of the state in which fruitful interaction of women participants from various backgrounds took place.

KSSP is launching a number of activities to promote science education in schools. We organize **SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUBS** and give various activities to keep them active.

With the full co-operation of the Department of Education KSSP is conducting **Eureka TALENT TESTS** for primary children, **Sasthrakeralam QUIZ** for high school students and **Sasthragathi Talent Test** for college students.

We have also designed some **COURSES FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS**. The idea is to communicate effective method of teaching science and other topics and thus make teaching a pleasurable experience both for the teachers and the taught.

KSSP has also conducted an enquiry into the corrupt practices in the field of education and published the report which drew tremendous attention of the public.

KSSP has conducted multi-disciplinary **STUDIES ON VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** of Kerala, and published the reports for public discussion. Study reports on Silent Valley, Kuttanad, industrial pollution by Gwalior Rayons in Calicut etc. and the public debates organized on these reports played a crucial role in building up people's resistance against environmental degradation.

KSSP has also conducted a series of **CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEFORESTATION**. The Forest Protection March conducted through the forest areas helped the formation of people's resistance groups in forest areas.

KSSP has recently developed a **HIGH EFFICIENCY CHULHA**. Now a campaign to construct 1,00,000 high efficiency chulha in the state is being organized successfully. Thousands of trained volunteers are involved in this work. KSSP organizes health camps, classes and audio visual **CAMPAIGNS ON HEALTH** throughout the state. This year thousands of health classes were organized by KSSP throughout the state together with a health and morbidity survey of Kerala in which thousands of activists participated.